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27 JAN 2006

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Dilworth & Barrese, LLP
333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Suite 702
Uniondale, New York 11553

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|---------------------------------|---|----------------|
| In re Application of | : | DECISION ON |
| Max SEGERLJUNG ET AL | : | |
| PCT No.: PCT/SE2003/001073 | : | |
| Application No: 10/521,281 | : | PETITION UNDER |
| Int. Filing Date: 23 June 2003 | : | |
| Priority Date: 15 July 2002 | : | |
| Attorney's Docket No.: 821-67 | : | 37 CFR 1.47(a) |
| For: A VEHICLE AND A METHOD FOR | : | |
| CONTROLLING STEERING THEREOF | : | |

This is in response to the "PETITION FOR FILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.47(a)" filed on 22 December 2005. The petition fee is now \$200.00 for a petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) so \$70 has been charged to petitioner's deposit account 04-1121 stipulated in the petition letter filed on 22 December 2005.

BACKGROUND

On 23 June 2003, applicants filed international application PCT/SE2003/001073, which claimed priority to an earlier application filed 15 July 2002. A copy of the international application was communicated by the International Bureau to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on 22 January 2004.

On 14 January 2005, applicants filed in the United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) a transmittal letter for entry into the national stage in the U.S. under 35 U.S.C. 371, which was accompanied by, inter alia, the U.S. basic national fee, and an executed declaration signed by Max Segerljung.

On 20 July 2004, the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) mailed a "NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)" (Form PCT/DO/EO/905) which informed applicant, inter alia, that an "Oath or Declaration of the inventors, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a), and (b), identifying the application by International application number and international filing date." The current oath or declaration does not comply with 37 CFR 1.497(a) and (b) in that it: the second inventor is not listed on the declaration.

On 22 December 2005, petitioner filed the present petition, a declaration in support of filing on behalf of omitted deceased inventor Kurt Dahlstrom accompanied, inter alia, an executed Declaration by Max Segerljung but without the signature of Johanna Dahlstrom the legal representative of Kurt Dahlstrom's estate.

DISCUSSION

A petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) must be accompanied by (1) the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(g), (2) factual proof that the missing joint inventor refuses to execute the application or cannot be reached after diligent effort, (3) a statement of the last known address of the missing inventor, and (4) an oath or declaration by each 37 CFR 1.47(a) applicant on his or her own behalf and on behalf of the non-signing joint inventor.

Furthermore, section 409.03(d) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.) **Proof of Unavailability or Refusal**, the relevant sections states, in part:

REFUSAL TO JOIN:

A refusal by an inventor to sign an oath or declaration when the inventor has not been presented with the application papers does not itself suggest that the inventor is refusing to join the application unless it is clear that the inventor understands exactly what he or she is being asked to sign and refuses to accept the application papers. A copy of the application papers should be sent to the last known address of the nonsigning inventor, or, if the nonsigning inventor is represented by counsel, to the address of the nonsigning inventor's attorney. The fact that an application may contain proprietary information does not relieve the 37 CFR 1.47 applicant of the responsibility to present the application papers to the inventor if the inventor is willing to receive the papers in order to sign the oath or declaration. It is noted that the inventor may obtain a complete copy of the application, unless the inventor has assigned his or her interest in the application, and the assignee has requested that the inventor not be permitted access. See MPEP § 106. It is reasonable to require that the inventor be presented with the application papers before a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 is granted since such a procedure ensures that the inventor is apprised of the application to which the oath or declaration is directed. *In re Gray*, 115 USPQ 80 (Comm'r Pat. 1956).

Where a refusal of the inventor to sign the application papers is alleged, the circumstances of the presentation of the application papers and of the refusal must be specified in a statement of facts by the person who presented the inventor with the application papers and/or to whom the refusal was made. Statements by a party not present when an oral refusal is made will not be accepted.

Proof that a *bona fide* attempt was made to present a copy of the application papers (specification, including claims, drawings, and oath or declaration) to the nonsigning inventor for signature, but the inventor refused to accept delivery of the papers or expressly stated that the application papers should not be sent, may be sufficient. When there is an express oral refusal, that fact along with the time and place of the refusal must be stated in the statement of facts. When there is an express written refusal, a copy of the document evidencing that refusal must be made part of the statement of facts. The document may be redacted to remove material not related to the inventor's reasons for refusal.

When it is concluded by the 37 CFR 1.47 applicant that a nonsigning inventor's conduct constitutes a refusal, all facts upon which that conclusion is based should be stated in the statement of facts in support of the petition or directly in the petition. If there is documentary evidence to support facts alleged in the petition or in any statement of facts, such evidence should be submitted. Whenever a nonsigning inventor gives a reason for refusing to sign the application oath or declaration, that reason should be stated in the petition.

Petitioner has satisfied requirements (1) and (3) of 37 CFR 1.47(a) but not requirements (2) and (4).

Regarding requirement (1), petitioner has provided the complete fee of \$200.00 under 37 CFR 1.17(g).

In this case regarding requirement (2), petitioner has stated that a complete copy of the applications was sent to Johanna Dahlstrom for her review and to sign the required documents. The declaration also states that as of December 5, 2005, Johanna Dahlstrom has not responded. Although, petitioner has provided the cover mailed with the application papers, petitioner has not included documentary evidence that the application papers were indeed delivered and received by Johanna Dahlstrom. Petitioner only states that the letter was sent by DHL but has not provided the postal receipt or a signed receipt acknowledging that the papers were delivered and signed by Johanna Dahlstrom.

In addition, it is unclear if Mr. Olsson has first hand knowledge of the mailing to Johanna Dahlstrom as recited in paragraph 3, if he doesn't then petitioner needs to submit statements, with specific facts on the actions referred to the mailing of the application papers to Johanna Dahlstrom by persons who have first-hand knowledge of such facts.

Regarding requirement 3, petitioner has provided a statement of the last known address of the legal representative of the deceased inventor.

Regarding requirement 4, the declaration filed on 14 January 2005 is defective since it does not comply with 37 CFR 1.497(a)(3). A Declaration, under 37 CFR 1.497(a)(3), must identify each inventor, and in this case the deceased inventor, Kurt Dahlstrom, has not been listed in the declaration. See MPEP § 602.

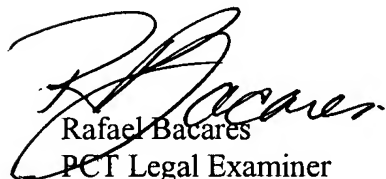
Consequently, petitioner has not satisfied all the items under 37 CFR 1.47(a).

DECISION

The petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) is **DISMISSED** without prejudice.

If reconsideration of the merits of the petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) is desired, applicant must file a request for reconsideration within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this Decision. Any reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition Under 37 CFR 1.47(a)." Extensions of time are available under 37 CFR 1.136(a). Failure to timely file the proper response will result in ABANDONMENT.

Any further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed to the Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, Office of PCT Legal Administration, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, with the contents of the letter marked to the attention of the Office of PCT Legal Administration.



Rafael Bacares

PCT Legal Examiner

PCT Legal Office

Telephone: (571) 272-3276

Facsimile: (571) 273-0459